



Legal Services Advocacy Project
970 Raymond Avenue, Suite G-40
St. Paul, MN 55114

February 17, 2023

The Honorable Peter Fischer
Chair, Human Services Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
551 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Debra Kiel
Lead, Human Services Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
203 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 1198 – Child Care Assistance Bill

Dear Chair Fischer, Lead Kiel, and Members of the Committee:

Legal Aid writes in support of HF 1198, especially the section on nonemergency medical transportation service (NEMT) found in 256B.0625, subdivision 17. There are three proposed changes to subdivision 17 that would be especially helpful to our clients.

- Adding type III vehicles (passenger vehicles & buses with seating capacity of 10 or fewer people) to the list of approved medical transportation providers covered by Medical Assistance.
- Specifying that clients aged 20 or under are also eligible for assisted transport.
- Adding a provision that sets children's NEMT rates at 125% that of regular NEMT rates for assisted & lift/ramp equipped transportation, if provided by a type III vehicle.

We believe these changes will incentivize transportation providers to accommodate rides for this underserved population and compensate for the slightly higher attention to care that child NEMT riders may require. Most importantly, we believe this will improve access to healthcare (especially mental health services) for children with disabilities.

Thank you for authoring this bill. We urge passage of HF 1198.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ellen Smart", written in a cursive style.

Ellen Smart
Staff Attorney